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# NME

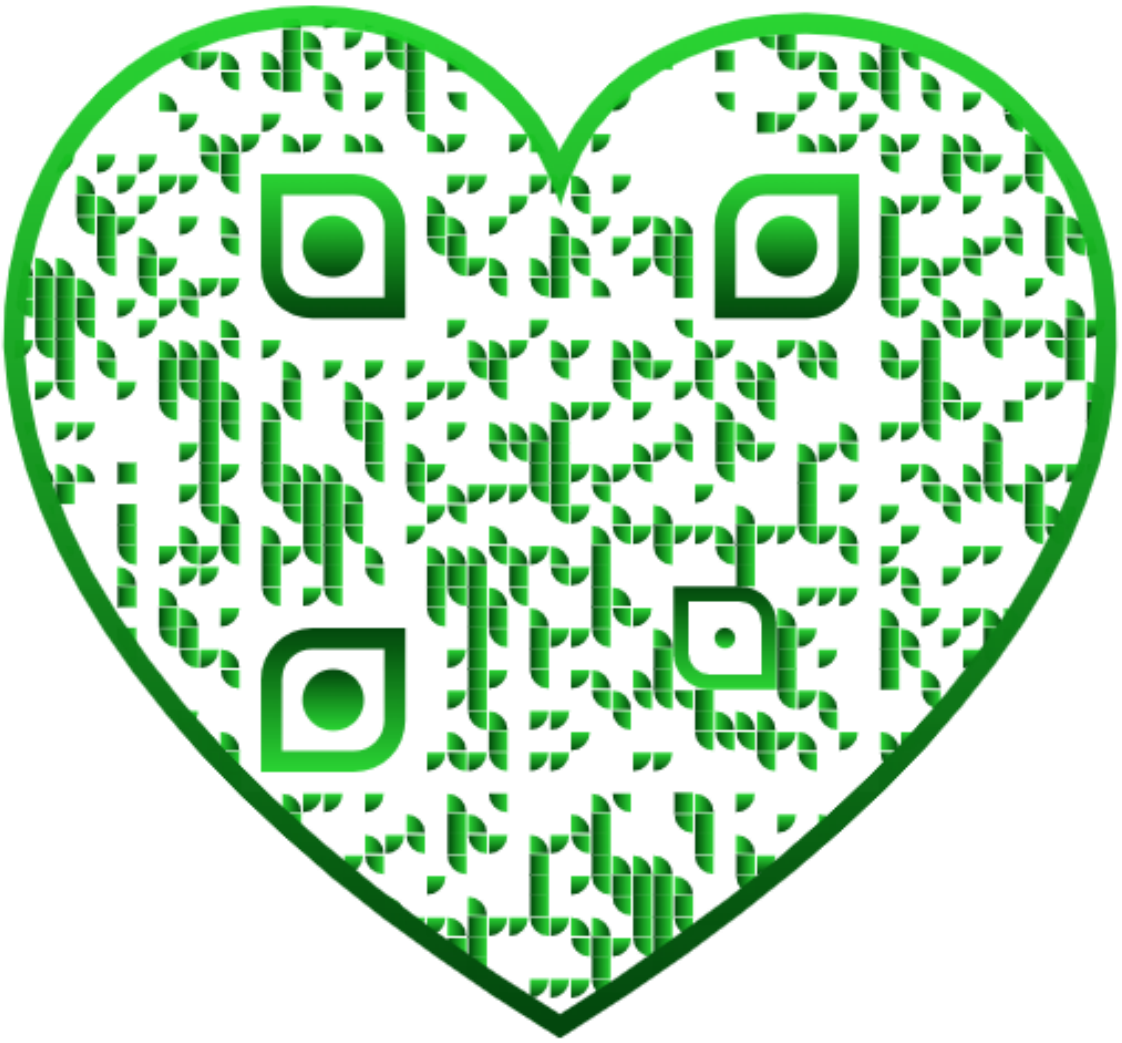
MUSIC FESTIVAL 10

SPECIAL ISSUE

STARRING

BRITNEY SPEARS

## INTERVIEW WITH A POP ICON



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NME 10

MUSIC FESTIVAL

# Hello...

IS THERE ANYTHING more exciting than seeing massive artists do their thing in tiny venues? Blur at the 100 Club in 2012, Kanye West at KOKO in 2015, The Libertines at the Boogaloo in Highgate earlier this year: these are some of the buzziest events in recent musical history.

On September 18 the Apple Music Festival kicks off at the Roundhouse in Camden, bringing with it some giants of modern music. Britney Spears, The 1975, Bastille, Alicia Keys, Calvin Harris and more will perform in this legendary corner of north London. This issue features interviews with and insights into the full line-up, including Matt Healy's justification for smoking and boozing onstage at 1975 shows ("I see everybody having a good time and I want a fag and a glass of wine"), Dan Smith's take on a new Bastille tune ("almost like our own superhero theme tune") and Britney's revelation that she might not be around for much longer. When asked if she thinks she'll have the longevity of her hero, Madonna, she responds: "Nope. Give me five – two? – more years."

Catch her while you can, in a venue that's way too small for her.

**MIKE WILLIAMS**
***Editor-in-Chief***
**@itsmikelike**

**Dan Smith from Bastille** p24

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**Julie Adenuga shows us round the London studios of Apple's all-conquering radio station**


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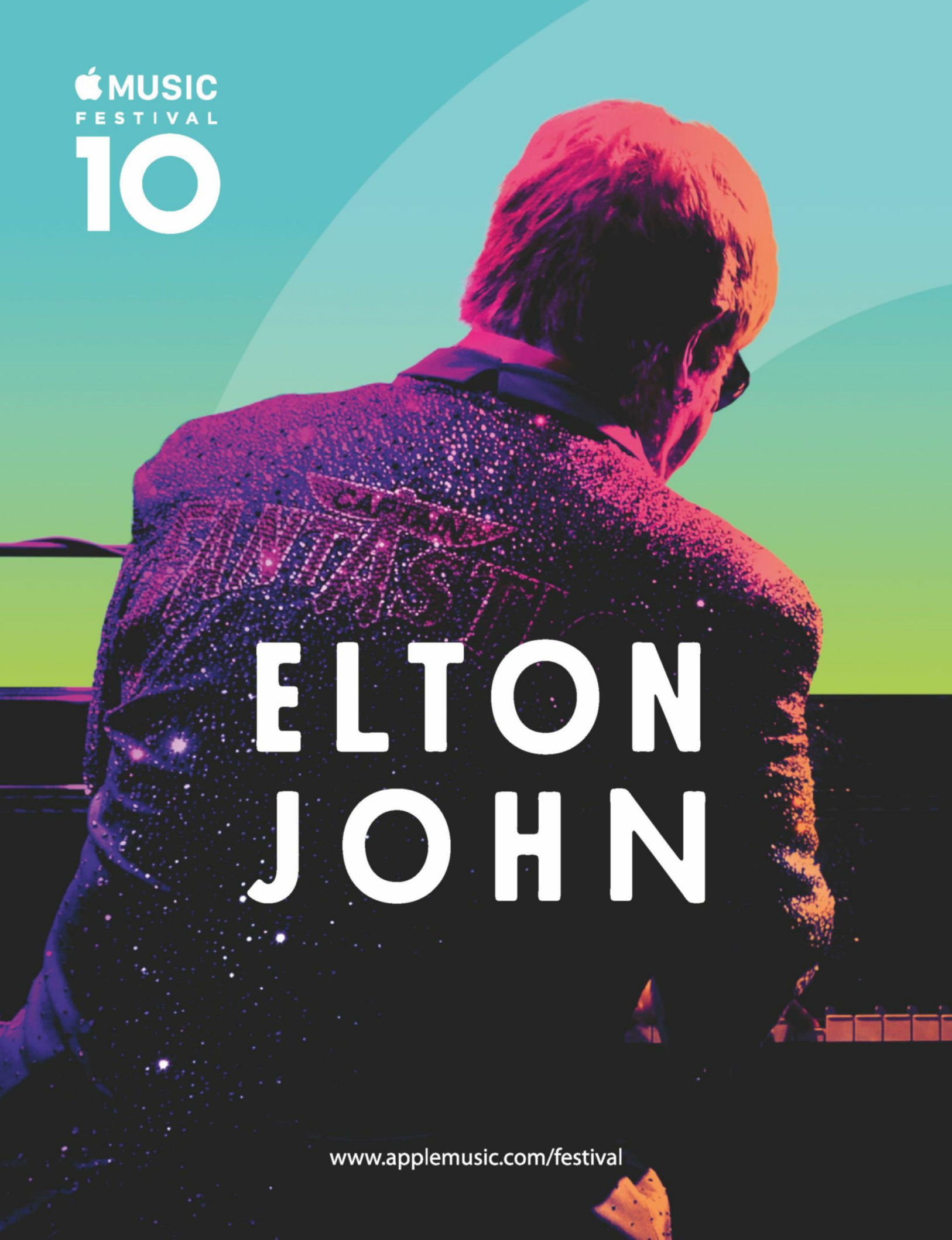
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# AGENDA

MUSIC FESTIVAL 10

## Hooray! It's Apple Music Festival month

**For 10 nights this September, the biggest stars will once again rock the socks off the legendary Roundhouse in Camden, London**

### The line-up:

Sun 18 **ELTON JOHN**
Mon 19 **THE 1975**
Tue 20 **ALICIA KEYS**
Wed 21 **ONEREPUBLIC**
Fri 23 **CALVIN HARRIS**
Sun 25 **ROBBIE WILLIAMS**
Mon 26 **BASTILLE**
Tue 27 **BRITNEY SPEARS**
Wed 28 **MICHAEL BUBLÉ**
Fri 30 **CHANCE THE RAPPER**

**WIN TICKETS!**
This year is the Apple Music Festival's 10th anniversary, and to celebrate we're giving away 25 pairs of tickets for every single night.
**Go to NME.com/win to claim ultimate victory**

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Deadmau5 playing the Apple Music Festival in 2014

# “You’ve got to find your invisible balls”

**After a tricky four years involving a sex tape and convictions for assault and drink driving, former N-Dubz member and *X Factor* judge Tulisa is back with a cover of the 1999 garage hit ‘Sweet Like Chocolate’, and she’s still a legend**

**You played at London club G-A-Y recently, working a leather punk-inspired outfit. Is a change of direction afoot?**
“It was just for the night, I guess it’s a little bit bondage-y. I just wanted to have a bit of fun, but I am a bit of an undercover rock queen. Even [fellow N-Dubz member] Fazer said, ‘One day you’re going to turn into Pink! You’re going to do a rock album,’ because I do love my rock music.”

**Why did you decide to cover ‘Sweet Like Chocolate’?**
“It happened naturally. I heard the new Craig David record with that old-school garage sound and I was like, ‘Why didn’t I come up with that?’ I started singing the classics and ‘Sweet Like Chocolate’ just popped into my head.”

**Is an album on the cards?**
“An album of singles. If there was an album – which I’m not thinking about – I want to bang out single after single. I’m talking a minimum of six and maybe then we’ll think about an album, which I think, unless you’re Adele or Beyoncé, is the way it’s done. Especially with dance music.”

**Your last album, 2012’s ‘The Female Boss’, was all about empowerment – what advice would you give to women who want to be more of a boss?**
“Look in the mirror, look deep into yourself and find your invisible balls. They’re in there somewhere.”

**How important is it to you to have creative control over your work?**
“So important, and I’m so used to it I couldn’t do it any other way. I couldn’t be an artist who was told what to do, what to be, what to sing. It would just be a big fat lie. You’d see it in my face as I have to love what I’m doing. It’s got to come from me. I’m an intense singer, so I look like I need the toilet every time I hit a high note! It’s got to come from the heart and I feel like I’m releasing when I’m on stage.”

**You published the biography *Honest: My Story So Far* in 2012. Will you do a follow-up to talk about the last four years?**
“It’s funny you should say that because I wrote a book in my time out. I haven’t even taken it to the publishers yet. I’m just doing my final edits but I want there to be more happy things out there. I don’t want it to be like ‘why me?’ or dragging on about the past. I want to be in a happy place. It’s very much written like *Sex And The City*, in story form. It was 260,000 words when I finished, and the average novel is 70,000.”

**What else is in the works for you these days?**
“I want to go back into acting again. I’d like a kick-ass role like Lara Croft in *Tomb Raider*, or *Resident Evil* – just badass. I want to do martial arts and I want to do back flips.”

## GOOD WEEK

**LADY GAGA**
The pop star played a tiny show at Hackney’s Moth Club venue, much to the delight of 200 hipsters.

**JAMAL EDWARDS**
The SBTV overlord has been announced as the headline speaker at *NME*’s #LifeHacks event on October 13.

**ST VINCENT AND CARA DELEVINGNE**
The musician and model have split after a year and a half as an item.

**KANYE WEST**
Criticised after models for his Yeezy Season 4 outdoor catwalk show passed out due to extreme heat.

## BAD WEEK

INTERVIEW: LEONIE COOPER. PHOTOS: GETTY, HAL SHINNIE/CHANNEL 4, PHOTOSHOT, REX

# The warriors

***Breaking Bad* actor RJ Mitte – Walter White Jr himself – has been fronting Channel 4's Paralympics coverage. Here's his guide to the most electric events**

RJ MITTE MAY HAVE BEEN sweet-natured as Walter Jr in *Breaking Bad*, but don't let that fool you. The actor, who has cerebral palsy, is a jock in real life. "I play soccer, American football, rugby, and I've started doing a lot of snowboarding," says the presenter. "I'll play any sport." And the Manchester United fan believes the Paralympics are finally being taken as seriously as the able-bodied Olympics. "People know now the Paralympics isn't some joke," he enthuses. "These athletes are *warriors*, man. They show as well as anyone what human beings are capable of doing. Even when our bodies are breaking, we have the ability to pick ourselves up, fight and win." Here's his guide to the essential events still to be decided…

**The Paralympics 2016 is on Channel 4 until September 18**

**1 WHEELCHAIR RUGBY**
"Wheelchair rugby is keyed-up. It's great to play and almost even better to watch, because it's just so much fun to watch people getting slammed. The same goes for wheelchair basketball."

**2 BOCCIA**
"It's like bowls, which doesn't sound great and it's not a sport I knew much about before I got the presenting job. But once I knew the rules, I got totally hooked. There's so much technique involved."

**3 EQUESTRIANISM**
"The technique is mesmerising. Once you know a little of what to watch for, you suddenly find you've been watching it for hours. That's kinda what the Paralympics is about, finding new sports to get hooked on."

**4 ARCHERY**
"There are some incredible archers in Rio. Their aim is insane and again Team GB are strong. But hey, if you don't like archery there are so many other games to recommend. Every single Paralympics athlete I've seen is a true fighter."

**5 7-A-SIDE FOOTBALL**
"This could be a chance for a home medal for the Brazilians, always popular. I love playing and watching any type of soccer. I'm quite a tough all-round soccer player and Manchester United are my team. That's a little obvious, so I'll be looking out for other British teams while I'm in the UK."

## Last W33K IN NUMBERS

**20**
Years since Tupac's death. A Californian café pays respect with dishes like California Love Chicken.

**150,000**
People who signed a petition to save iconic London club Fabric. Sadly, they failed.

**36**
Hours rapper Desiigner spent in the slammer after a road rage arrest.

**£88 million**
The amount of money already made by Guns N' Roses' reunion tour, – from only 25 shows!

NEW!

# ON THE RECORD

WITH LEONIE COOPER

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.

THIS WEEK

## Here's to hippies

**What we can learn from the naked flower children of the *Woodstock* film**

LAST WEEK, THE V&A launched a brand new exhibition celebrating the long hair, flagrant nudity and massive tunes of '60s counter-culture. *You Say You Want A Revolution? Records And Rebels 1966-1970* is a sprawling, wonderful thing, the highlight of which comes near to the end, after you weave your way past a couple of The Beatles' *Sgt Pepper* costumes, copies of the brilliantly rude underground magazine *Oz* and a dusty chunk of moon rock to the soundtrack of cult Radio 1 DJ John Peel's record collection. You enter a spacious room complete with cosy bean bags straight out of the sixth form common room. Said bean bags are scattered across a luscious fake grass floor next to Keith Moon from The Who's drum kit and above it all, the *Woodstock* concert film plays out on loads and loads of massive screens. It is an utterly majestic moment, and I'm not just saying that because I downed three cocktails in 15 minutes at the press preview.

But it wasn't the footage of the legendary artists who graced the epic American festival – Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane, Joe Cocker, Sly And The Family Stone, etc – that made me want to somehow travel back to 1969. No, it was the sight of a bunch of naked hippies frolicking in a lake on the fringes of the site. Sure, they were totally and utterly starkers, but it wasn't sensational and it wasn't showy – it was just a group of people having a lovely time splashing about in some pretty grim-looking water. Stomach bugs and Weil's disease notwithstanding, it looked like the kind of thing that all stressed millennials should do every now and again. Unlike today, there was nobody telling them they were too fat, too thin or too hairy; it was body-positive without even knowing what the hell body-positivity was.

**"No bags full of wet wipes – just a couple of daisies"**

And before you think I'm obsessed with naked hippies (because I'm not – well, no more than the next guy), it wasn't just the nudity that seemed delightful. It was the lack of possessions and unessential crap that everyone in the *Woodstock* crowd shots seemed to have. There were no backpacks full of wet wipes and dry shampoo – just a couple of daisies draped here and there.

It made me think about how much rubbish I cart around with me on a day-to-day basis, and the sheer amount of tat littering my house. It made me long for the clothes-shy flower children's lack of materialism. So I made sure I bought loads of stuff from the museum shop straight after so I would never forget their inspirational ways.

@leoniemaycooper

PHOTOS: BELLA HOWARD, REX

SAM TAYLOR'S SLIME ZONE
FUNNIEST DEATHS EVER
2
RIP
LOL
1131: PRINCE PHILIP (FR)
HIS HORSE TRIPPED ON A PIG COVERED IN POO.
1567: HANS STEININGER
TRIPPED ON HIS OWN BEARD ESCAPING FROM A FIRE.
1478: DUKE OF CLARENCE
EXECUTED BY DROWNING IN A BARREL OF WINE.

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EATS & BEATS

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T ROCK OUT ON AN EMPTY STOMACH

THIS WEEK

# Bun fun

**So you follow Celebs On Sandwiches on Instagram, you love Jeff McCarthy's illos, but you haven't been able to work out how to make the tasty looking things. Until now!**

**Jeff says:** "The idea just came to me. I've been drawing and painting my whole life, and I love food, so pairing the two made sense. I always try to choose subjects I think would appreciate the humour, and the response has been great. There've been likes and reposts from Snoop Dogg, Beck, Gigi Hadid and more."
**Follow @celebsonsandwiches on Instagram, or visit celebsonsandwiches.com to buy a print**

## Drake

**ON CANADIAN BACON AND CHEESE**

**Jeff says:** "A nod to his Canadian roots."

**You will need:**
- 2 slices of toasted wholemeal bread
- 2 slices of American cheese
- Canadian bacon, ½ an inch thick
- Mustard

## Snoop Dogg

**ON FRIED CHICKEN AND WAFFLE SANDWICH**

**Jeff says:** "Snoop has talked about the possibility of buying iconic LA food spot Roscoe's House Of Chicken & Waffles. So it seemed fitting to paint him on their famous dish."

**You will need:**
- 2 potato waffles
- 1 chicken breast, lightly fried in breadcrumbs
- Maple syrup

## Beyoncé

**ON A PEPPERONI AND CHEESE PANINI**

**Jeff says:** "After some serious food investigating, I found that one of Beyoncé's favourite foods was pizza."

**You will need:**
- 2 slices of bloomer bread
- Mozzarella cheese, sliced
- Sliced pepperoni (use Quorn pepperoni if you're meat-free)

## Beck

**ON A STEAK SANDWICH**

**Jeff says:** "This was a collab with the record label for the release of Beck's new song 'Wow'. I was told that he eats 'a LOT of steak'."

**You will need:**
- 1 ciabatta
- 1 medium sirloin steak
- Worcester sauce
- 1 medium onion, sliced and fried

## Sia

**ON GRILLED EGGPLANT IN A BRIOCHE BUN**

**Jeff says:** "Sia's vegetarian, so I thought grilled aubergine was a good fit."

**You will need:**
- 1 brioche bun
- 1 large slice of aubergine (grilled)
- Rocket
- Salsa

NME PROMOTION

## Goose Island Beer Co is having a party

**THERE WILL BE:** Live sets from Everything Everything and Black Honey. A range of great beers from Chicago beer legends Goose Island including Goose IPA, 312 Urban Wheat Ale and Honkers Ale. Street food including wood-smoked meat and fish & chips.
**WHEN:** Sept 24, 4-10pm
**WHERE:** Red Market Shoreditch, London, EC1V 9LA
**TICKETS:** £10, eventbrite.co.uk

GOOSE ISLAND BEER CO.

drinkaware.co.uk for the facts

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# THINGS WE LIKE

**Apple Music Festival takes place at London's famous Roundhouse. Here are *NME*'s favourite spots nearby**

**The Black Heart**
Camden's best-loved dive bar has decent brews and serious rock 'n' roll credentials.
*ourblackheart.com*

**Marathon**
Get chips in pitta bread from this iconic late-night kebab stop.
*marathonkebabhouse.co.uk*

**The Hawley Arms**
Once Amy Winehouse's fave boozer, it's a great place to get a pint.
*thehawleyarms.co.uk*

**Poppies**
Fish and chips done the traditional way. Fill up before hitting the Roundhouse.
*poppiesfishandchips.co.uk*

**The Good Mixer**
The pub which birthed Britpop is a great place to play pool and put Elastica on the jukebox.
*thegoodmixer.com*

**Cyberdog**
This neon wonderland has been kitting out day-glo ravers since the 1990s.
*cyberdog.net*

**Rokit**
Camden's legendary vintage shop started life on the market and has just turned 30.
*rokit.co.uk*

**Primrose Hill**
It's just a quick stroll from the Roundhouse, and Blur were right – the view's *so* nice.
*royalparks.org.uk*

**All Ages Records**
This awesome punk record store has been fiercely independent since 2003.
*allagesrecords.com*

**Kerb Camden**
Trading seven days a week, Kerb is a street food paradise, with trucks and stalls galore.
*kerbfood.com*

**House of Guadalupe**
Get your fill of Mexican folk art – think Frida Kahlo and religious iconography – here.
*houseofguadalupe.co.uk*

**Evil From The Needle**
Camden's longest-running tattoo studio has been inking folk since 1986.
*evilfromtheneedle.co.uk*

**Collectif**
If you need a last minute dose of glam, check out this vintage-inspired clothes store.
*collectif.co.uk*

**The Diner**
Retro American-style burgers and milkshakes you can add booze to.
*goodlifediner.com*

PHOTOS: ALAMY, DARREN WILLIAMS, RACHEL BILLINGS

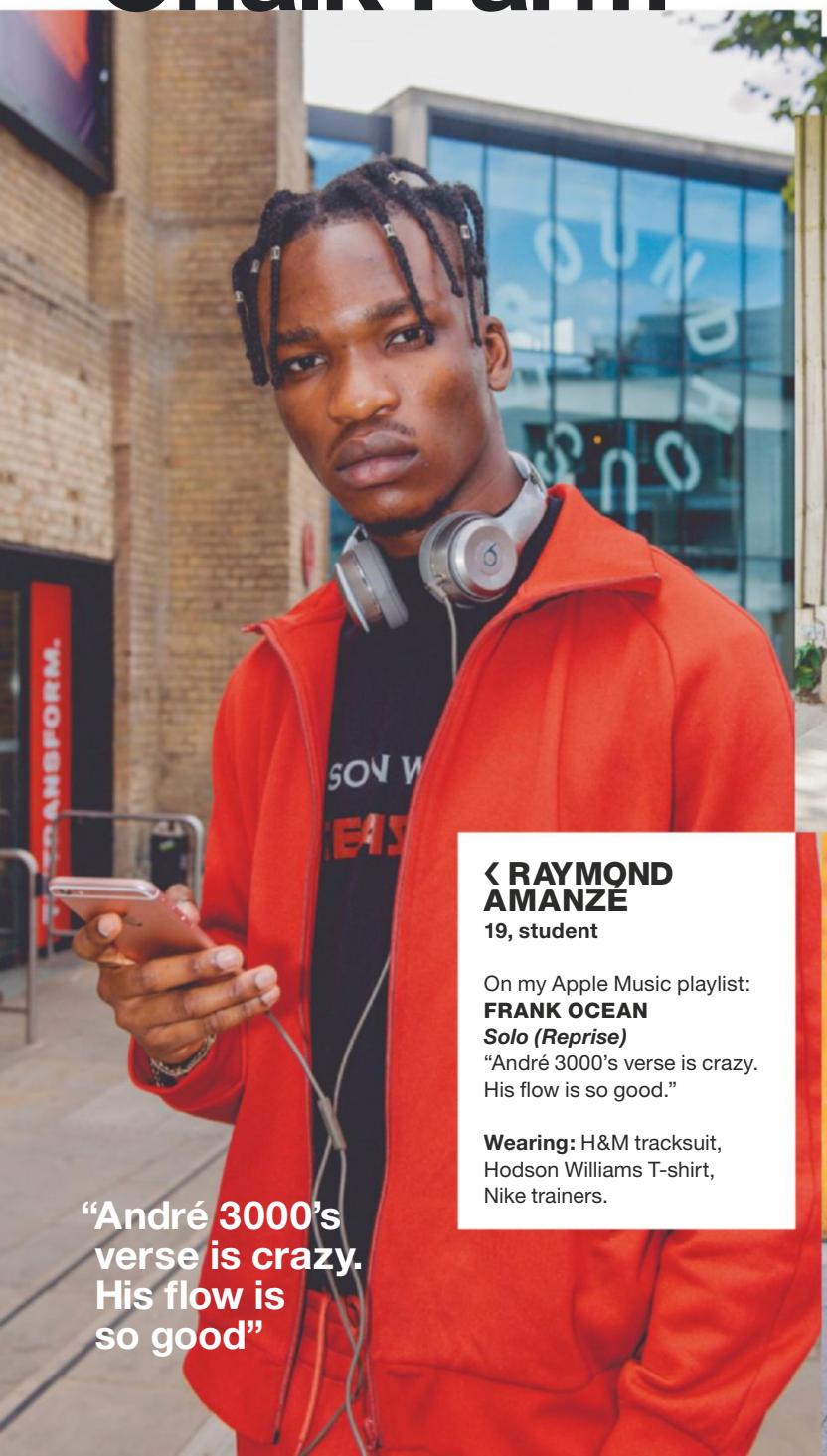
**For more things we like, visit NME.com**

YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

# What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

# Chalk Farm




## ‹ RAYMOND AMANZE

**19, student**

On my Apple Music playlist:
**FRANK OCEAN**
***Solo (Reprise)***
"André 3000's verse is crazy. His flow is so good."

**Wearing:** H&M tracksuit, Hodson Williams T-shirt, Nike trainers.

## KESTRA LAURENT ›

**24, filmmaker**

On my Apple Music playlist:
**FAT WHITE FAMILY**
***Satisfied***
"I love how grimey it is!"

**Wearing:** Zara dress, Vans trainers.

## ‹ JON GAREZE

**26, music supervisor**

On my Apple Music playlist:
**BADBADNOTGOOD**
***Time Moves Slow (Feat. Sam Herring)***
"They fuse jazz, rock and a load of different genres together. It's so unique."

**Wearing:** Columbia Records T-shirt, ASOS jeans, Red Wing shoes.

## SOPHIE NAUFAL-BAKER ›

**23, bartender**

On my Apple Music playlist:
**LAURA MARLING**
***Take The Night Off***
"I saw her at Green Man Festival and was completely blown away."

**Wearing:** Dress from a vintage shop in Portugal, vintage Oilily shoes.

## ‹ ADE TEJUOSO
**18, designer**

On my Apple Music playlist:
**PARTYNEXTDOOR**
***Bout It***
"I like his style, he's so smooth."

**Wearing:** Polo Ralph Lauren jacket and trousers, MBA T-shirt, Gucci cap and bag, Converse trainers.

## DYLAN EPEGA ›
**19, student**

On my Apple Music playlist:
**RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS**
***Go Robot***
"It's so different to their usual stuff!"

**Wearing:** H&M T-shirt and sandals, Topshop jeans.

**"Go Robot is so different to the Chilis' usual stuff"**

## ‹ LAUREN ACKIE
**25, retail worker**

On my Apple Music playlist:
**POPCAAN**
***Addicted***
"It's got such a summer vibe and makes me feel like I'm on holiday."

**Wearing:** New Look shirt, River Island shorts, Adidas trainers.

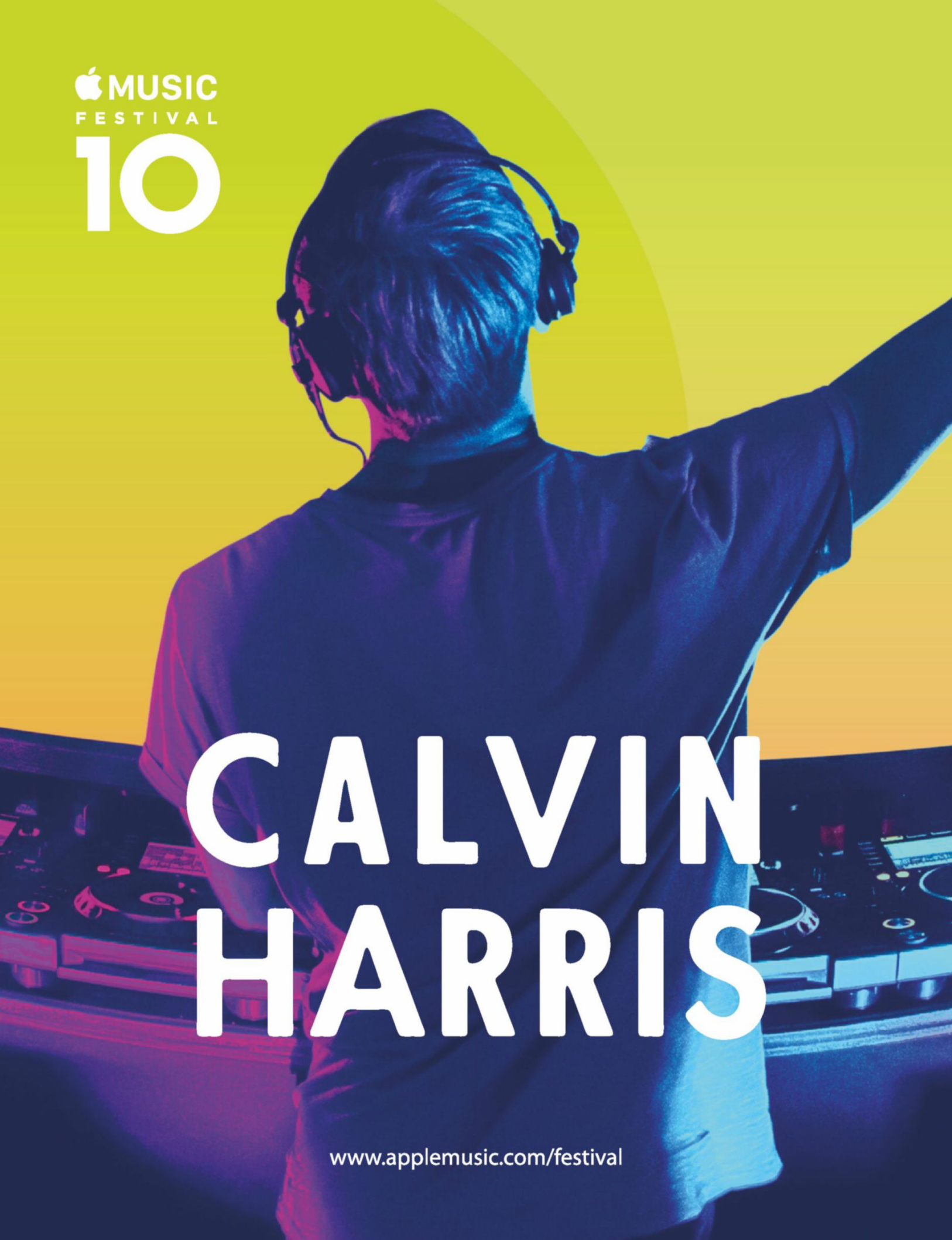
**"Popcaan's Addicted makes me feel like I'm on holiday"**

## MATT TESTER ›
**33, key account manager**

On my Apple Music playlist:
**DAY WAVE**
***Come Home Now***
"He's got that California-vibe that's perfect for the summer."

**Wearing:** ASOS T-shirt and trainers, Zara jeans.

PHOTOS: ANDY HUGHES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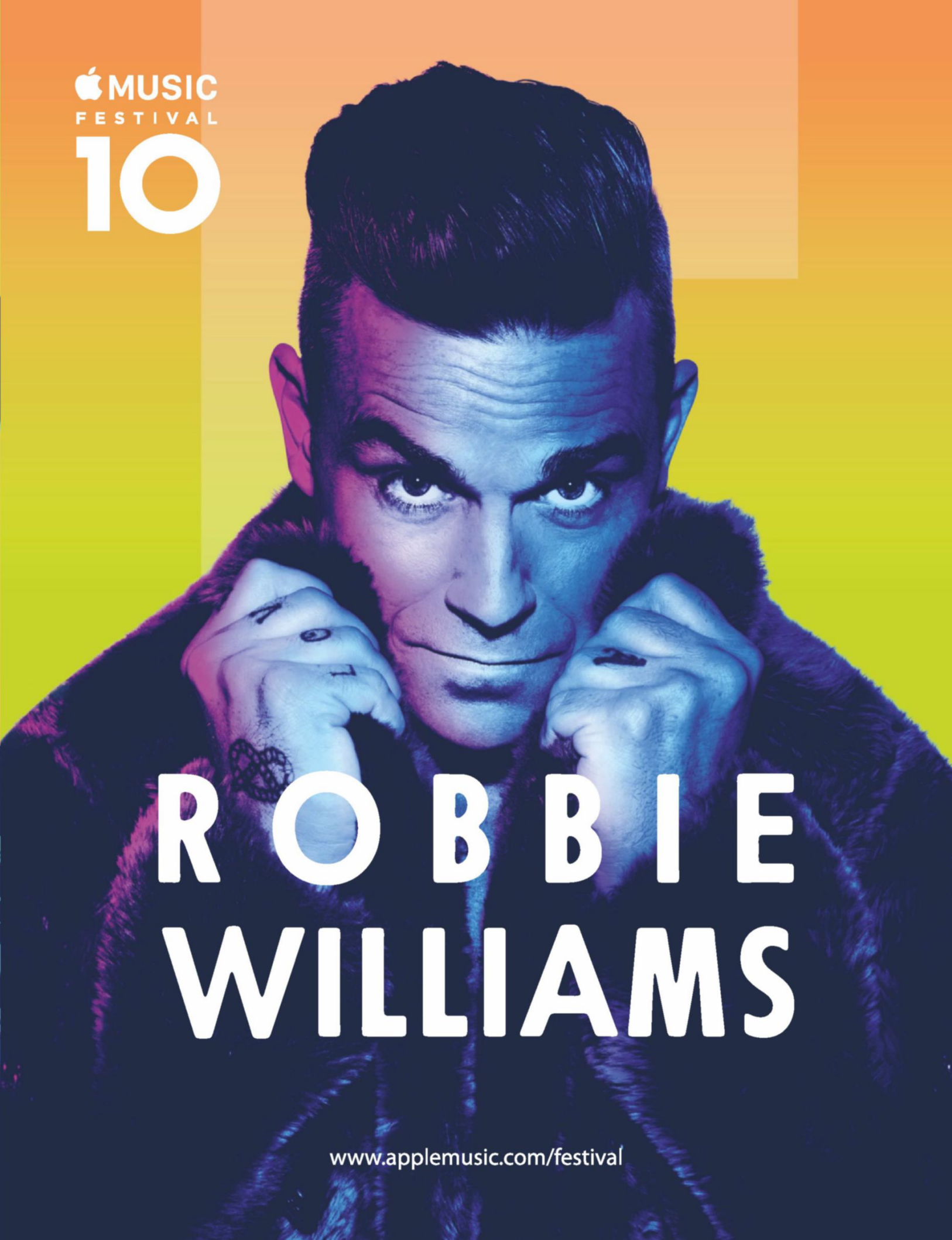
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# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO

**Since 2007, Apple Music Festival has made it its mission to bring massive artists to an intimate and iconic corner of London – and the line-up for its 10th anniversary, at the Roundhouse in Camden, is the best yet…**

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To win tickets to see Britney at the Apple Music Festival, go here: NME.com/win

SEPTEMBER 27

# BRITNEY SPEARS

APPLEMUSIC.COM/BRITNEYSPEARS

## The defining pop artist of her generation is playing the UK for the first time in five years. **Nick Levine** talks Beyoncé and doppelgangers with the star

BRITNEY SPEARS DOESN'T have a squad like Taylor Swift. Or a name for her fans like Ariana Grande ('Arianators') and Katy Perry ('KatyCats'). Or a history of complaining about doing meet-and-greets with fans, like Justin Bieber. Or a list of beefs she's had, even though she broke up with fellow pop superstar Justin Timberlake in 2002. It's hard, too, to imagine anyone doing a Kim and Kanye style 'takedown' of her, because it's just not how she goes about her business.

The 34-year-old is a pop star from another era, but still the biggest of them all. And in 2016, 18 years since her debut single, still so famous that even if you've never heard a Britney album you'll know her lyrics – *"Oh baby baby, how was I supposed to know?"*; *"I'm not that innocent"* – and remember her best looks. Everyone recalls her as an air hostess in 2003's 'Toxic' video, draping a snake over her shoulders at the 2001 VMAs or dressing up as a schoolgirl in the video for '...Baby One More Time'.

As Lana Del Rey put it in 2012: "I'm not interested in a ton of female musicians, but something about Britney compels me – the way she sings and just the way she looks."

She's got 'it'. She's a pop star who inspires devotion and obsession, whose fans call her Godney and The Holy Spearit. Down the phone from Las Vegas – where her *Britney: Piece Of Me* residency has been running since December 2013 – she explains how she feels about those nicknames. It must be weird being called Godney, right? "Yeah! But that's just how the fans are – and I don't want to let them down. At the end of the day, we're all human and we all make mistakes. It's really flattering, but I don't know if I can set my bar that high. I mean, I'm sure a lot of them have almost felt like they've grown up with me, you know?"

She's being too modest. A generation of fans and musicians have absolutely grown up with her, including Lady Gaga (who said in 2009, "When I was 13 she was the most provocative performer of my time") and Charli XCX, who recently declared herself an "endless fan of Britney Spears", explaining: "She massively inspired me when I was younger and still now. Britney's punk, she doesn't care. She's amazing and her videos are next level."

Her critics have always been pretty merciless. But anyone with a modicum of sense can see that her voice is instantly recognisable, great pop stars don't have to be great songwriters (though Britney's been racking up co-writes for most of her career), and performers with no talent rarely build 18-year careers.

How does she explain her longevity? "I try not to analyse it too much. I love what I do and I think that helps because it speaks for itself when I perform. Seeing other artists continue to do this kind of thing inspires me too. Because sometimes I'm like, 'What am I doing? Like, I could be a teacher.' But then I see other people doing it too and I'm like, 'Well, you know, it's probably all they've known for so long, so it just kind of makes sense.'"

In 2016, she's a bigger live draw than ever. *Britney: Piece Of Me* has been a mould-breaking success. Post-Britney, Vegas is no longer where your granny's favourite singers go to top up their pension, and both Jennifer Lopez and Mariah Carey have followed her to Nevada. Because she's been so busy in Vegas, Britney hasn't performed on a UK stage for five years, but she's preparing to play London's 1,700 capacity Roundhouse for the Apple Music Festival on September 27.

The fans who call her Godney are probably digging a tunnel into the venue as we speak.

What's fascinating about Britney is that although she's been one-name-only famous since '...Baby One More Time', we don't know much about her. The basic stuff is out there: grew up in the small town of Kentwood, Louisiana, appeared on *The Mickey Mouse Club* as a teen, transitioned with ease into pop stardom, mum-of-two, two marriages. We've gleaned from pap shots that she likes a Frappuccino and from her increasingly revealing Instagram that she really loves her kids. But that's kind of it.

When asked what she thinks she stands for, she replies: "I guess just a good person. Someone who makes people happy and cheerful, whose music lifts you up." Which is charming, but not too revealing. It turns out the way to access her soul is to quiz her about new album 'Glory', which is her best since 2007's 'Blackout'. The songwriting is surprising, the production on-trend, her vocals a revelation. She sounds like she's having fun again. Why is it so full of life? What makes it different from her last one, 2013's 'Britney Jean'?

"Honestly, this is the first project where I've really been hands-on. I was really specific about who I worked with and I've been learning to say no. I'm a people-pleaser, so that's hard for me – even if I don't like something, I'll do it just to make a person happy. I made sure this album was everything I wanted it to be. I was really selfish with it."

Britney, the pop star who likes performing way more than she likes talking, is spilling her heart out. "The beginning of the project wasn't that great – the songs that were coming in weren't very good. So we got a new A&R girl, totally turned it around and gave it a profound new direction. I wanted to use my voice more, which is why I'm losing my voice this morning. I did different stuff with my voice, bluesy stuff, urban stuff, and played around with different things."

A standout track on 'Glory' is 'Just Like Me', one of five co-written by B. Spears. It's a catchy but sad ballad about a woman who finds her boyfriend in bed with a doppelganger. Where did that idea come from? "Me and my girlfriend, we came up with that. I was inspired by that Tracy Chapman song 'Fast Car', because it's just her and the guitar. I wanted to do something simple like that. The idea of coming home and seeing the one you love with a girl that looks identical to you is just completely devastating."

Britney's music taste has long been a mystery, so it's surprising when she gushes about Beyoncé's latest album. "Generally, I like songs that are bit different and I like moody stuff. I just listened to 'Lemonade'. I'm a little late on that, but it's good, really angry, a really hardcore album. There are moments where you feel the light, airy Beyoncé, but most of the time it almost feels like a therapy album. I respect that. She's an artist and that's what she needs to touch on at this moment in her life."

Britney's never been shy about her adoration for Madonna, whom she famously kissed on stage at the 2003 VMAs. A year later she said: "I'd rather meet Madonna than the President of the United States." Can she see herself on stage, doing the pop star thing when she's Madonna's age? "Nope. Nah. Give me five – two? – more years, and yeah." She's probably exaggerating for effect, but what if she isn't? Enjoy Britney Spears – the defining pop star of her generation – while you can.

MUSIC FESTIVAL 10

“I’m a little late on Beyoncé’s ‘Lemonade’, but that is a good, angry, really hardcore album”

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## Oh baby baby

**The strange things that happen at Britney gigs**

2001

**THE DREAM WITHIN A DREAM TOUR**

Every night the stage was flooded with two tons of water, drenching Britney and her dancers.

2004

**THE ONYX HOTEL TOUR**

She performed ‘Touch Of My Hand’ – about the pleasures of self-love – while reclining in a transparent bathtub.

2009

**THE CIRCUS STARRING BRITNEY SPEARS**

Britney sang ‘Piece Of Me’ while trapped in a cage, trying to escape her dancers. A metaphor for fame, duh!

2011

**FEMME FATALE TOUR**

She sang ‘I’m A Slave 4 U’ with gay soft porn playing behind her. A nod to her LGBT fanbase.

2013-PRESENT

**BRITNEY: PIECE OF ME**

Every night, Britney scours the crowd for a ‘victim’ she can yank onstage and spank with a whip.

SEPTEMBER 19

# THE 1975

APPLEMUSIC.COM/THE1975

## Singer Matt Healy dissects The 1975 live experience for Rhian Daly ahead of their smallest UK gig in years

WHETHER IT'S MATT Healy strutting across the stage sucking on a cigarette and gulping down wine that attracts your gaze, or the dazzling cityscape projected onto the screens behind them, The 1975's live show is a spectacle. The Manchester band can't help but create an electric atmosphere, too, thanks to the hysterical responses that greet their every movement. These days, the quartet are used to gigantic venues (and are playing two nights at The O2 in London in December), but for one night only they'll be doing their thing in the intimate surrounds of the Roundhouse for the Apple Music Festival. Ahead of what's set to be a very special night, Healy dissects The 1975 live experience.

**How do you prepare for shows?**
"It depends. We don't have many rituals. I think that stops us being pretentious or something. We went to high school together, so if I was trying to meditate or be Jim Morrison I would get a slap. We don't have any rituals. There's not that much build-up on tour, but the Apple Music Festival gig will be different because we'll be at home. I might get the Tube to the gig, which is always nice."

**How do you feel before a gig? You don't seem like a man who'd get nervous...**
"The more intimate it is, the more nervous I get – I suppose because it's not what I'm used to. It's a very lucky situation to be in. Because we play quite big shows more regularly I'm more comfortable with that. You get nervous for all the big 'uns though, all the big festivals, your Readings and Glastonburys and stuff."

**You smoke and drink on stage. Do these little comforts help with the nerves?**
"I'm up there for ages and I'm just like everybody else. I see everybody else having a drink and a good time and I want a fag and a glass of wine. Why wouldn't I? It's nine o'clock, there's loads of people there, I want one. And it's my gig, so I'm gonna have one. I'm not at all trying to emphasise the performance, I just want a ciggie. I don't want to be the odd one out. I feel like I'd be taking myself too seriously if I didn't do what felt natural, which is having a cig."

**Your show's visuals are incredibly striking. What's the idea behind it?**
"It was inspired by all of our favourite things. There are obvious references to James Turrell and [Mark] Rothko paintings and a lot of minimalist art references. It's all done with this video content and we use video screens as a light source so you have these silhouettes. We felt very competent expressing ourselves musically, so it felt like we needed to extend that to our live show. Having such a technical show does stop you from being so impulsive, but it does create a more coherent show. It's changing over the next month for the American tour and then the UK tour. It'll be a slightly different set."

**"I see everybody else having a good time and I want a fag and a glass of wine"**

**It looks so good, but you ask crowds to put their phones away so they can't take pics...**
"I'm more aware of that than anybody. There's nothing I hate more than someone on stage getting proper miffed with it, being like, 'Oh, put your phones down,' 'cause I get it. I'm just as bad as anybody else. Our lives are like a forum now, so we validate our experiences by sharing them. I try not to be a d**k about it."

**There's a lot of hysteria and passion from your audiences at gigs. How does it feel to be faced by that response every night?**
"It's quite humbling. The thing that always excited me was when it all first started happening. It felt like it had gone straight from my bedroom into the public consciousness. It amazed me that those ideas had spread out and meant so much to people – and now that's happening on such a large scale, it's still what it comes back to for me. Reading Festival was the perfect example. I was kind of just in awe for the whole thing."

**Do you ever get used to that reaction?**
"No, not moments like that. Not those big moments. Of course, you become acclimatised to touring and doing shows and stuff like that, but no, not really, you don't get used to it. You learn how to deal with it and still be a person. I don't take it for granted."

(L-r:) Ross MacDonald, Matt Healy, Adam Hann, George Daniel

To win tickets to see The 1975 and Christine And The Queens at the Apple Music Festival, go here: NME.com/win

THE SUPPORT ACT

# Christine And The Queens

**Allow 28-year-old French lady Héloïse Letissier to introduce herself**

**"I write songs…** and dance. I have a stage character called Christine. I try to remain a question mark and allow other people to be as free as I am on stage."

**"My music…** is a hybrid of influences, classical to hip-hop. A song is like a sentence, a way to communicate."

**"My live show…** is more like a stage play than a gig. It's about the aesthetic: stage design, strokes of colours. It's really sweaty too. Everyone dances."

**"My dancing…** is part of the character. I want others to want to dance with me. I want it to be contagious."

**"The best bit of my Apple Music Festival show will be…** after a track called 'Science Fiction'. We're going to sample Serge Gainsbourg. We're plotting new moves for the Festival right now."

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PHOTOS: MATT SALACUSE, DR

**“It’s a nice opportunity to play a beautiful venue in our home town”**

(L-r:) Will Farquarson, Kyle Simmons, Chris Wood, Dan Smith

To win tickets to see Bastille at the Apple Music Festival, go here: NME.com/win

# BASTILLE

APPLEMUSIC.COM/BASTILLE

## Frontman Dan Smith tells Hamish MacBain about his band's second album and why he loves small shows

BY THE TIME THEY arrive on stage for their Apple Music Festival show at the Roundhouse, Bastille's long-awaited second album 'Wild World' will have been out for over two weeks. This means their new songs will, hopefully, be bellowed back at them just as loudly as their 2013 smash 'Pompeii', and all the other songs that – even now – are everywhere. Come October, they'll embark on a UK tour of massive arenas. All of which only makes the chance to play smaller shows such as this all the more special – for the people watching *and* for the people on stage.

**So you're sharing the Apple Music Festival line-up with... Elton John and Britney Spears.**
"I know! It's very surreal to be on that line-up. But we're just really excited to be asked to do it: it's a nice opportunity to play a beautiful venue in our home town."

**Speaking of home town shows, what on earth was the idea behind the secret show you played as Chaos Planet the other week?**
"I dunno, we just thought it would be nice to be a '90s chillwave band for a night. It was a nice excuse to wear some tie-dye. Any excuse to wear tie-dye is alright by me."

**You've got an arena tour in the autumn. Is there a sense of waving goodbye to being able to do small, sweaty gigs like that?**
"I don't think so. There's always the way back down, man."

**Don't say that!**
"I'm joking! But they're my favourite shows and I love playing them, so any opportunity we get to play smaller shows, we're going to do it. I guess it doesn't make sense on, like, a money level, but a lot of stuff we do doesn't make sense."

**How do you feel about an arena tour?**
"I would have loved to be playing way more smaller shows. But equally, creatively, it's an opportunity to plan a show that's more ambitious and bigger than anything we've done before. Not just in terms of scale, but in terms of – from the minute that you walk into the room, to the end of the gig – everything being engaging and speaking to the themes of the new album."

**The title 'Wild World' is quite suggestive. What are the themes?**
"Towards the end of last year, I wrote this song 'Warmth' and it's quite an affectionate song in the context of the madness of the world sometimes, and it made me think that would be the thread that holds this whole album together. The idea that, yeah, the world seems pretty f**ked up, and there's no right or wrong way to react to it. There's no right or wrong answer, obviously, and who are we do anything other than articulate what it is to feel a bit confused? It's not meant to be grand: it's quite everyday. Like, there's a song about freaking out over what's going on and going, 'F**k it, it's not the right thing to do, but let's get s**t-faced.'"

**There are also a lot of film references, right?**
"Yeah. One song, 'Blame', that's like a scene in a gangster film in my mind. And then there's another that's inspired by part of *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. The song 'Glory', that's like a *Wayne's World* moment: you and a friend lying on top of a car late at night, looking at the planes flying over. And there's another that's like an ode to Nancy Sinatra and [Quentin] Tarantino, that goes off on this ridiculous over-the-top horn riff – that's like a big nod to hip-hop, but in a self-consciously jokey way, almost like our own superhero theme tune."

**So there's quite a bit of humour?**
"I think so. Not that we're not taking it seriously, but I think there's maybe an assumption that we take ourselves much more seriously than we do. That song, 'Send Them Off!', has a quote at the beginning about the most brilliant brain in the world. It's us wanting to have that ridiculous swagger that we definitely don't have. It's like, f**k you, if we want to start one of our songs with this ridiculous brass sound that's not what you'd ever expect from Bastille, we're going to f**king do it. We wanted people to hear a song in isolation and not necessarily know who it is. Until my annoying voice comes in."

PHOTOS: DEAN CHALKLEY

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SEPTEMBER 30

# CHANCE THE RAPPER

APPLEMUSIC.COM/CHANCETHERAPPER

## He'll be bringing party vibes to Apple Music Festival, says Leonie Cooper

EVERY NOW AND THEN, an artist comes along who's so slick, effortless and charming it's impossible not to gawp. Chicago MC, vocalist and songwriter Chance The Rapper is one such artist. The 23-year-old burst into the mainstream in 2013 with his joyful 'Acid Rap' mixtape, followed it this year with a memorable guest spot on Kanye West's 'Ultralight Beam' and then his own heady, gospel-inflected 'Coloring Book' album. He doesn't play in the UK often, but that's not the only reason you should check him out at the Apple Music Festival.

### HIS LIVE BAND ARE SUPER TIGHT

When Chance The Rapper graced London with his presence in 2014, he didn't mess about. His sold-out show at the O2 Forum in Kentish Town was riotous and sweaty, but what really stood out was Chance's insanely talented band, who ran the gamut from jazz and rock to soul and pop. Like his buddy Kendrick Lamar, Chance is bringing outstanding live instrumentation back to rap. Fingers crossed his pal Donnie Trumpet stops by the Roundhouse for some sweet brass back-up.

To win tickets to see Chance The Rapper at the Apple Music Festival, go here: NME.com/win

### HIS FAMOUS FRIENDS MIGHT TURN UP

Chance has friends in high places. Not only is Barack Obama a fan and James Blake his old housemate, earlier this month Chance serenaded his "auntie" Beyoncé with a *Simpsons*-inspired version of 'Happy Birthday' at the Made In America festival in Philadelphia. Back in 2014, his mate Justin Bieber joined him on stage at Coachella to act as hype man and in 2015 Kendrick Lamar came out with him at Teens In The Park, a free event he put on in his hometown of Chicago, for 'M.A.A.D. City'. Will he bring out anyone in Camden? You'll have to go to find out.

### THE SONGS ARE SO VERY GOOD

A fiercely independent artist, Chance releases his music himself, and gives it away for free too. Cheers, Chance! This means he's in full control of his creative process and everything you hear is straight from the heart. He's capable of party bangers ('No Problem'), tender ballads ('Same Drugs') and sweet summer anthems ('Cocoa Butter Kisses'), and they'll all blow your mind live.

### HE'S A TRUE SHOWMAN

Chance's high-energy showmanship was enough to win over former US President Bill Clinton at Made In America. Go watch the videos, they're hilarious. When the rapper's on stage, you can't keep your eyes off him as he dashes this way and that, throwing in some fancy footwork and Chicago juke dance moves for good measure. The man's a whirlwind.

(L-r): Zach Filkins, Ryan Tedder, Brett Kutzle, Drew Brown, Eddie Fisher

Apple Music Festival 10

SEPTEMBER 21

# ONEREPUBLIC

**APPLEMUSIC.COM/ONEREPUBLIC**

## Frontman Ryan Tedder gives Nick Levine 10 reasons why the US mega-hitmakers will blow your mind

**1 YOU'LL GET A SNEAK PREVIEW OF OUR NEW ALBUM**

"We have three songs from the album nailed – but the problem is, there are 16 to learn!"

**2 PETER GABRIEL MIGHT COME ON**

"He features on the album, so I'm trying to talk him into performing with us. Right now, I reckon it's 60:40. I'm fairly optimistic."

**3 WE TAILOR OUR SHOW TO THE VENUE**

"We play to the person furthest back in the audience. If I did grand, arena-sized gestures in an intimate venue like the Roundhouse, I'd look like an idiot. My attention to detail is super-heightened in a smaller venue."

**4 OUR SKILLS WILL SURPRISE YOU**

"Because we're a commercial band, people don't expect a high degree of musicality. But there's a guy in our band who's getting his masters in classical composition and plays, like, seven instruments. People will leave feeling like they've had a true musical experience."

**5 MY VOICE WILL SURPRISE YOU**

"Honestly, it sounds better live than on the radio."

**6 A ONEREPUBLIC SHOW IS A COMMUNAL EXPERIENCE**

"We have people aged between 15 and 55 at our shows. At the risk of sounding cheesy, I want it to feel like everyone's a family. We have pub singalong moments."

**7 WE MIGHT EVEN TAKE YOU TO CHURCH**

"Church in a good way – think gospel. If you've had a s**t day, you'll leave feeling better than when you arrived."

**8 OUR HOUSE BANGER WILL GET EVERYONE DANCING**

"Alesso remixed our song 'If I Lose Myself'. If we close our set with it, without fail people leave with a sense of euphoria. That's the trump card the whole DJ culture has – it's almost unfair how well it works."

**9 I'VE LEARNED NOT TO TALK TOO MUCH ON STAGE**

"I used to be Adele-level chatty, but now I gauge the mood. The audience almost gets into a state of reverence on certain songs and if you crack a joke, even if it's the funniest s**t ever, you can pull them out of that moment."

**10 I WANNA BE LIKE BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN**

"A country music star told me his secret to a great show: 'If people pay $50 a ticket, I give them a $100 show.' That stuck with me. I treat each show like I'm about to get fired and have to earn the right to come back. I wanna be like Bruce Springsteen and entertain from start to finish."

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PHOTOS: ZOE RAIN, REX FEATURES

To win tickets to see Calvin Harris, Michael Bublé, Robbie Williams and Elton John at the Apple Music Festival, go here: NME.com/win

SEPTEMBER 23

# CALVIN HARRIS

**APPLEMUSIC.COM/CALVINHARRIS**

**WHO:** The biggest DJ on earth.
**TELL ME MORE:** 32-year-old Adam Wiles from Dumfries had his first hit in December 2006 with 'Acceptable In The 80s' and has since grown into a global EDM titan. Rihanna was the key to his US success – while touring with her in 2011, he wrote, produced and featured on her single 'We Found Love', which was the longest-running US Number One of the year. This year he worked with Rihanna again on 'This Is What You Came For' and he's now got his pick of collaborators, who've recently included John Newman, Dizzee Rascal and Ellie Goulding. He's mates with more than just musicians, too: actor Will Smith was Harris' hype man at his 2014 T In the Park headline show.
**WATCH OUT FOR:** Any of the above making a guest appearance.

SEPTEMBER 28

# MICHAEL BUBLÉ

**APPLEMUSIC.COM/MICHAELBUBLE**

**WHO:** The 21st century's Frank Sinatra.
**TELL ME MORE:** The Canadian jazz singer began his career with a self-released 1995 EP called 'First Dance' and has since made eight albums. Much of his early work was made up of jazz standards and covers. His first big original hit came with 2009's 'Haven't Met You Yet', which will probably be one of the most recognisable tunes he performs at the Apple Music Festival. His last three albums – 'Crazy Love', 'Christmas' and 'To Be Loved' – all hit Number One in the UK. He's a popular guy.
**WATCH OUT FOR:** Naturally 7, the talented a cappella group from New York City who make sounds like an orchestra using only their voices. They're frequent collaborators with Bublé and might make an appearance.

Apple Music Festival 10

WORDS: LARRY BARTLEET. PHOTOS: EVAAN KHERAJ, JOHN WRIGHT, GARY CALTON/EYEVINE

**SEPTEMBER 25**

# ROBBIE WILLIAMS

**APPLEMUSIC.COM/ROBBIEWILLIAMS**

**WHO:** Y'know, the cheeky chappie from Stoke who left Take That, the biggest pop group of the time, and then became a huge solo artist.
**TELL ME MORE:** Robbie's had many guises over the years: classic extrovert on 'Let Me Entertain You'; future-gazing philosopher on 'Millennium'; X-rated pop star on 'Rock DJ'; love-struck crooner on 'Feel'; mid-Noughties dancer on 'Lovelight'; mischief-maker of swing on 'Dream A Little Dream' – a career that ensures his status as a top-class entertainer. He's currently creating his 11th studio album with longtime collaborator Guy Chambers, following a reportedly record-breaking record deal with Sony Music.
**WATCH OUT FOR:** He's been known to don a fat suit for self-parodying song 'No One Likes A Fat Pop Star' and it's very funny.

**SEPTEMBER 18**

# ELTON JOHN

**APPLEMUSIC.COM/ELTONJOHN**

**WHO:** That's Sir Elton Hercules John, to you.
**TELL ME MORE:** The jackets, glasses and, of course, piano make Elton one of the most recognisable figures in popular culture. More important, though, is his almost unparalleled opus of hits. This is the man who sang 'Your Song', 'Tiny Dancer', 'Rocket Man', 'Crocodile Rock', 'Candle In The Wind', 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart' and 'Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word' – and that's just the early years. He released his 32nd album earlier this year.
**WATCH OUT FOR:** Elton's recently been supporting new talent like French pop revelation Christine And The Queens, Maryland R&B singer Gallant and 17-year-old Scottish soul singer Tallia Storm – any of whom might make an appearance.

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"Her music has recently become quieter, and more subtle"

To win tickets to see Alicia Keys at the Apple Music Festival, go here: NME.com/win

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SEPTEMBER 20

# ALICIA KEYS

**APPLEMUSIC.COM/ALICIAKEYS**

**WHO:** New Yorker best known for her 2009 Jay Z collaboration 'Empire State Of Mind'.
**TELL ME MORE:** Keys came to fame with her 2001 blues hit 'Fallin''. Her career shifted into the big leagues with the massive 2007 ballad 'No One', and she did a bombastic Bond theme with Jack White in 2008. But she's recently headed into quieter, subtler territory via new single 'In Common', whose stark aesthetic is mirrored by her decision to go make-up free. Here she may focus on new material. You might get a sense of her new direction from the company she's keeping: she recently hit the studio with producer Sam Romans, who's written for Mary J. Blige and Disclosure. The silky-voiced Sampha was there too, suggesting Keys is breaking fascinating new ground.
**WATCH OUT FOR:** 'Hallelujah', a big ballad co-written with Sam Smith collaborator Jimmy Napes.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** 22-year-old Jordan Fisher, a former Disney actor. New EP 'All About Us' sounds a bit like chart Zayn Malik crossed with Nick Jonas.

NME

WORDS: LARRY BARTLEET. PHOTOS: MCCOLGAN

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10
BASTILLE
www.applemusic.com/festival

# ALWAYS ON

**Behind the scenes at Apple Music's game-changing Beats 1. Its London star, Julie Adenuga, is Leonie Cooper's guide for the evening**

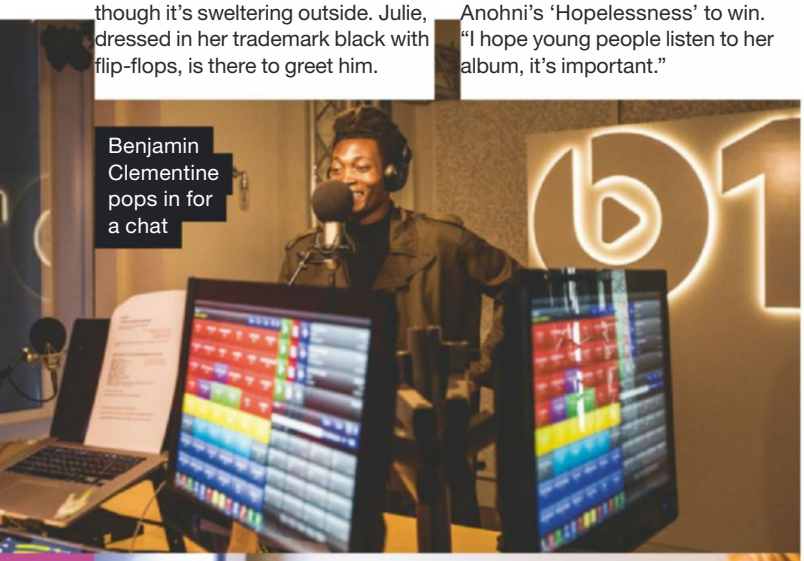
SINCE LAUNCHING ON JUNE 30 2015, BEATS 1 HAS exploded worldwide. The station has Elton John, Fatboy Slim, Major Lazer, Dr Dre, Drake and Travis Scott as guest hosts, and broadcasts in over 100 countries, 24 hours a day to over 17 million Apple Music subscribers. The station has three bases – Los Angeles, New York and London – and a main anchor in each city: Zane Lowe, Ebro Darden and former Rinse FM DJ Julie Adenuga respectively. Tonight, Julie is showing us round Beats 1 UK's north London base…

## 5.53PM

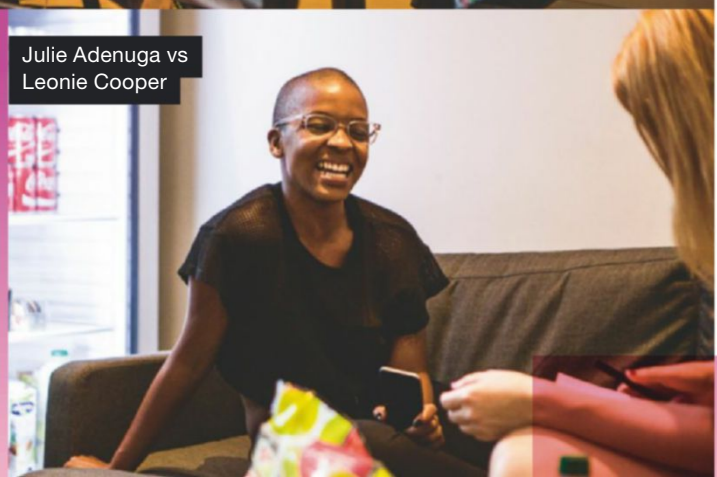
Beats 1 is situated in a large Gothic building called The Church in Crouch End, in the same studio complex Adele recorded '25'. Guest Benjamin Clementine fits the aesthetic perfectly, arriving in a floor-sweeping overcoat, even though it's sweltering outside. Julie, dressed in her trademark black with flip-flops, is there to greet him.

## 5.56PM

Benjamin – who won last year's Mercury Prize for his album 'At Least For Now' – begins his interview in the main Beats 1 studio. Introduced by Julie as "a lovely human being", they chat about the Mercury, with softly spoken Benjamin applauding the quality of the list. "I'm very happy I'm not in this year's competition, because I don't think I'd have been on the shortlist," he says, before tipping Anohni's 'Hopelessness' to win. "I hope young people listen to her album, it's important."



Benjamin Clementine pops in for a chat



Julie Adenuga vs Leonie Cooper

## 6.11PM

Following their interview, Julie has some pictures taken with Benjamin for official Beats 1 promo. "The light's beautiful," comments the photographer. "How about us?!" jokes Julie, before asking if anyone has a pair of high heels she can borrow, as Benjamin looms over her. Then it's time to make some GIFs, so Julie pops her head out from behind a baffled looking Benjamin. It's pretty obvious he's not a GIF man.

## 6.17PM

In the break room, surrounded by healthy snacks, Julie pops her legs up on a sofa and we have a chat about how she got started at Beats 1 – which basically sounds like being recruited to be a spy. "I had these meetings which were like blind dates – no one was allowed to say what was happening! I didn't know what the end game was," she says. When she was finally told what the job was,there were just three rules in place: "The main things were that Beats is worldwide, that we were always on air, and Jimmy [Iovine, co-founder of Beats Electronics] wanted us to not be boring. That was it."

## 6.39PM

Before going live at 8pm, there's a run through of the show. Behind her mixing desk, Julie sings along to the new Warpaint song 'New Song'.

## 7.01PM

While Julie and her producers listen to new tracks, a screen above the mixing desk tells us what's playing live on Beats 1 right now. It's 'Mr Beat' by King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard, in case you were wondering.

## 8PM

Showtime! Standing up behind her mic, Julie kicks off the with Young M.A.'s 'Ooouuu'. "Don't forget that I am here to play your favourite songs," she hollers down the mic, before segueing into AlunaGeorge's 'Mean What I Mean'.

## 8.25PM

And not just our fave songs, her fave songs, too. She introduces the Little Simz-featuring mix of Jack Garratt's 'Far Cry' as her "favourite song of the year". In the studio the volume gets turned way up, like it's a club not a studio. All four producers are dancing behind their laptops. It is very, very vibey.

## 8.37PM

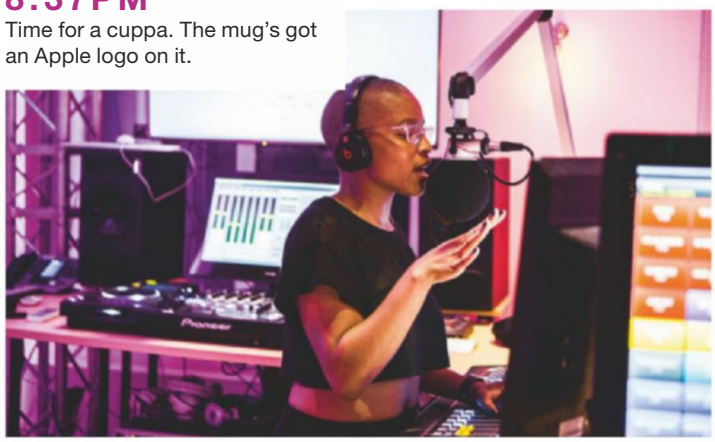
Time for a cuppa. The mug's got an Apple logo on it.

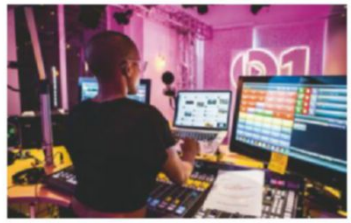
## 8.42PM

When Julie likes a song, she sings along loudly and tunefully. When she drops 'Lock Doh' by Giggs, it's like she's putting in a high-quality audition for *The X Factor*.

## 8.47PM

Julie interviews Jamal Edwards, co-founder of grime site SBTV and all round good guy.





## 9.21PM

As 'Daniella Whine' by Nigerian dancehall artist Patoranking plays, Julie says to her team that she might just dance to it for four minutes at a 70 degree angle rather than going to the gym. "I might start a new workout class now, on Apple Music," she suggests.

## 9.55PM

Tove Lo's 'Cool Girl' starts a near dance party in the studio, with Julie shimmying behind her mic.

## 9.59PM

It's the final song of the night. As Julie cues up Frank Ocean's 'Ivy', she thanks everyone before picking up her suitcase and heading to Bestival. Just another day in the office.

NME

PHOTOS: JENN FIVE, LUCY WILLIAMS

Tove Lo's 'Cool Girl' gets the studio dancing

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# RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV & MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

## Best NEW tracks

### And when to drop them

GUEST-EDITED BY BEATS 1 DJ EBRO DARDEN

### BEST FOR FEELING SMOOTH

**GOOSEBUMPS**
***Travis Scott (feat Kendrick Lamar)***
"I'm a huge fan of Travis Scott's melodies and Kendrick's multiple personality-style lyrics. The way he changes his voice is very entertaining and isn't that frequent in hip-hop."

### BEST FOR WEIGHT-LIFTING

**DIGGING FOR WINDOWS**
***Zack De La Rocha***
"Zack produced by El-P, yeah! I was a huge fan of Rage Against The Machine and I love El-P, he's been a trailblazer in underground alternative hip-hop for a while now."

### BEST FOR NYC AT NIGHT

**PERFECT ILLUSION**
***Lady Gaga***
"It feels like modern punk. I love Gaga, she's super talented, very expressive about social things and love. I'd put this alongside The Eurythmics and maybe The Pet Shop Boys. "

**For more new music, go to NME.com**

### BEST FOR PICKING APPLES

**EASY TO FORGET**
***Drugdealer (feat Ariel Pink)***
"I've never heard of Drugdealer or Ariel Pink. I didn't expect the folksiness. It's a great festival record, a day in the park-type song, great for summertime or the fall too."

### BEST FOR GETTING BOOZY

**TCR**
***Sleaford Mods***
"Perfect for a dope-ass keg party. I've never heard of them but I like it, it made me laugh. I didn't get it all, but I had a TCR [racing toy] as a kid."

SIA

PHOTO: MARY ELLEN MATTHEWS

### BEST FOR A DAY AT THE BEACH

**WAYS TO FAKE IT**
***CRX***
"It reminds me of skateboarding in California. Summertime, near Venice Beach, maybe volleyball's being played. I love The Strokes, this doesn't feel as aggressive and heavy as the stuff they usually do."

### BEST FOR PSYCHING YOURSELF UP

**I'LL BE THAT FRIEND**
***Jodie Abacus***
"It's very 'Bennie And The Jets'. It gives me Elton John vibes. It's a big, motivational song, almost like a movie soundtrack."

### BEST FOR FAT RAVING

**ALL GOES WRONG**
***Chase & Status (feat Tom Grennan)***
"This is a good party record right here. It feels like Creedence Clearwater Revival over some EDM trap vibes."

### BEST FOR A ROMANTIC DRIVE

**DROWNING**
***Mick Jenkins (feat Badbadnotgood)***
"I don't know if it's about what's going on socially and police brutality in America, but I love the journey and the darker, jazzy moods."

### BEST FOR FEELING BRILLIANT

**THE GREATEST**
***Sia (feat Kendrick Lamar)***
"It's Sia, one of the greatest songwriters in popular music, and Kendrick, one of the greatest rappers in hip-hop. An unexpected pairing, yes, but exciting."

(L-r:) Lindsey Troy and Julie Edwards

PHOTOS: ELEONORA COLLIN, REX FEATURES

# Loud and proud

**The hard rocking LA duo return with a huge sound and some searing social commentary**

## DEAP VALLY

***Femejism***

★★★★☆

FEMINISM RIFFS 'TUDE



CLATTERING OUT OF Los Angeles with their debut album 'Sistrionix' in 2013 after meeting a couple of years earlier at a crochet class, Lindsey Troy (vocals/guitar) and Julie Edwards (drums) were a breath of fresh air. With fiercely feminist songs like 'Walk Of Shame', a track that transforms the journey home from a male conquest's house into a proud battle cry, their ultra-relevant initial rumble was as hard-hitting as Led Zeppelin fronted by Gloria Steinem.

'Femejism' picks up where 'Sistrionix' left off. The past three years have seen no great strides in the quest for women's rights – hello gender pay gap, street harassment and backwards steps in reproductive rights – something Deap Vally know only too well. 'Smile More' is their response, a cool kiss-off to casual misogyny and those w**kers in the street who tell you to 'smile, darling'. "*And I am not ashamed of my mental state / And I am not ashamed of my body weight*," states Troy over her guttural guitar and own psychedelic licks, before delivering a delightfully deadpan rejoinder: "*And I am not ashamed of my sex life / Though I wish it were better.*"

In terms of melody, 'Femejism' is a more outwardly pop-leaning record than their debut, but the duo are still as heavy as Black Sabbath when they want to be, as the serious riffs on 'Bubble Baby' and growls on 'Grunge Bond' attest. 'Little Baby Beauty Queen' sees them fly their stoner metal flag, but with a smattering of sequin-studded glam to liven up the deal. There's even a semi-ballad in the shape of the bitter 'Critic', a hushed riposte to internet trolls hiding "*behind your computer*". The trippy 'Post Funk' is something different entirely, sounding not unlike early Yeah Yeah Yeahs, which shouldn't be too much of a surprise seeing as the New York garage-punk band's own Nick Zinner helped out on production.

'Femejism' also plugs into real, raw emotion, with the searing 'Turn It Off' powered not just by Edwards' brutal drumming, but by Troy's lovelorn lyricism. A truly vital band. **Leonie Cooper**

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

LIKE THIS? TRY THIS!

**YEAH YEAH YEAHS**

***Fever To Tell***

The trio's 2003 debut was full of sass.

# Almost famous

**The Londoners don't quite deliver on their early promise**

## ALUNAGEORGE

***I Remember***

★★★☆☆

POP DANCEHALL SEX

AFTER PLACING SECOND IN the BBC's Sound Of 2013 poll, AlunaGeorge looked poised to become the new cool, credible face of British pop. Sadly, this didn't quite happen. Their pretty decent debut album 'Body Music' stalled at No 11 and none of their own tunes became as huge as 'White Noise', the Disclosure banger they'd featured on.

Now that multi-instrumentalist George Reid has stepped behind the scenes, absent from the London duo's videos and promo appearances, it could be easier for the more charismatic singer Aluna Francis to sell this second album. She's especially compelling on lead single 'I'm In Control', telling a would-be suitor "*You gotta go deeper than deep to get me off*" over an addictive pop-dancehall beat.

'I Remember' has other highlights. The stylish glide of 'Mediator' is like Sade reimagined for the smartphone generation, while the title track shows Francis's gift for an evocative, ear-snagging pop lyric: "*I remember your scent when I just woke up and I'm on your chest*".

But over 12 tracks, AlunaGeorge don't do enough to command full attention. 'Mean What I Mean' and 'Hold Your Head High' are solid slabs of vaguely tropical Major Lazer-indebted pop, but misfires like 'In My Head' and 'Wanderlust' meander at a rather bloodless mid-tempo. The uncluttered production always feels reasonably on-trend, but too often these songs just aren't catchy or inventive enough to be truly memorable.

The result is another pretty decent album that doesn't quite ignite. **Nick Levine**

AlunaGeorge's Aluna Francis

FOR FANS OF

NAO

MØ

# Shifting tides

**Punk singer Laura Jane Grace emerges from a period of enormous personal change as an essential cultural figure**

**AGAINST ME!**
***Shape Shift With Me***
★★★★☆
HARDCORE PUNK | LOVE | SEXUALITY

‘SHAPE SHIFT WITH ME’, the seventh album from Florida hardcore punks Against Me!, is a collection of love songs, mostly dealing with heartbreak. Through the churning power chords of ‘Crash’ (which features a single tinkle of triangle that indicates the record’s poppier sensibilities), Laura Jane Grace barks, “*What happened to us?*”, concluding that “*the DNA has changed*”.

It comes after a period of enormous personal change for Grace, who came out as a transgender woman via an interview with *Rolling Stone* in 2012. Her wife, the artist Heather Hannoura, gave a moving interview to *Cosmopolitan* in which she insisted that their relationship would last. Yet the couple divorced in 2014, by which time drummer Jay Weinberg and bassist Andrew Seward had left the band. The resulting record, 2014’s acclaimed ‘Transgender Dysphoria Blues’, was a brave and empowering album of triumphant punk anthems like the stirring ‘True Trans Soul Rebel’.

If that album sounded like Grace riding the momentum of the upheaval in her life, ‘Shape Shift With Me’ deals with the fallout (she overcame a breakdown between the two releases). It’s not a record about being trans, but it does benefit from her near-unique position in the male-centric world of hardcore punk. As she told *Rolling Stone* earlier this year: “Being able to write about love through a trans lens is something that’s not really represented when it comes to love songs.”

‘Boyfriend’ is a propulsive ‘f**k you’ to a person the narrator once loved, while the brooding, prowling ‘Norse Truth’ sees Grace deliver a stinging spoken-word tirade about “*revenge*”. Crucially, the latter coins the album’s name: “*C’mon! Shape shift with me! What have you got to lose?*” This hook-laden, catchy punk album courses with pain, but there’s hope, pride and a steely sense of self-preservation here, too.

Context isn’t always important when it comes to songs, but it’s impossible to listen to the music of Against Me! without picturing the solace it could offer a teenager dealing with his or her gender identity, or perhaps sexuality. ‘Shape Shift With Me’ is an excellent album, Grace an essential cultural figure.

**Jordan Bassett**

**Best track**
**‘Boyfriend’**
**Boasts the rousing refrain *“Treated me like a boyfriend / Some dumb f**king boyfriend”.***

(L-r:) Atom Willard, James Bowman, Laura Jane Grace, Inge Johansson

(L-r:) Bryan Cranston as Robert Mazur and John Leguizamo as Emir Abreu

# Breaking cover

***Breaking Bad* star Bryan Cranston discusses his drug-busting new film and whether Walter White will ever return**

## THE INFILTRATOR

**15** *Bryan Cranston, Diane Kruger, Amy Ryan*

DRUGS SPYING DANGER

BACK IN THE ’80S, US customs agent Robert Mazur went undercover in Miami as corrupt businessman Bob Musella to infiltrate the world’s biggest drug cartel and help uncover Pablo Escobar. Now, craggy-faced *Breaking Bad* star Bryan Cranston is bringing Mazur’s dangerous, debauched story to life in new film *The Infiltrator*, directed by Brad Furman (*The Lincoln Lawyer*). Here, he chats drugs, spying and politics – while dropping a big hint about Walter White…

**How did you prepare to play a real-life customs agent?**

“I’ve played real life characters before [writer Dalton Trumbo and President Lyndon Johnson] so I’m used to doing my research. I was able to meet with the real Bob Mazur and get a first-hand account of what it’s like to risk your life in deep cover and wear a wire while posing as a money-laundering lawyer. He was meticulous. Meeting his family gave me a true sense of the man, beyond the film we were making. Bob teamed with the flamboyant Emir Abreu [played by John Leguizamo] and they became a formidable team assisting with the seizure of millions of dollars of drug money.”

**What does Mazur think of the film?**

“He was pleased with how the creative licence was taken. His book – *Infiltrator: Undercover In the World Of Drug Barons And Dirty Banks* – was very illuminating, but it was fact-based and full of acute detail. First and foremost we’re making a movie, so *The Infiltrator* had to be entertaining. He embraced that because we stayed as close to the truth as possible.”

**It charts a dark era in Miami’s history. Did the rhetoric of then President Reagan’s war on drugs have any effect? Can the war ever be won?**

“It’s an emphatic way to put your flag in the ground. I’d equate saying ‘We’re gonna have a war on drugs’ to saying ‘We’re gonna wipe out prostitution’. Both wonderful declarations… But good luck with that! It’s never going to happen. To be realistic, drugs are here to stay. The most important thing is to focus on saving lives. Talk to kids as early as possible. But we also need a compassionate society to take care of those that become addicted and want to turn their lives around.”

**Will you ever resurrect Walter White for *Better Call Saul*? Say it will be so!**

“The way I feel about how [show creator] Vince Gilligan and that show changed my life… Even if I hated the idea, I feel indebted, so if they wanted to bring me back I’d say yes in a heartbeat. But knowing Vince and [writer] Peter Gould as I do, they would make sure it’s something interesting, cool and unique. Expect something random…”

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

**Early in his undercover operation, the real-life Mazur had to hide in a wardrobe overnight, urinating quietly in empty beer cans.**

INTERVIEW: DAN BRIGHTMORE. PHOTOS: JASON THRASHER, WARNER BROS

Sam Neill as the curmudgeonly Hec

# An instant classic

**A little bit *Rambo*, a little bit *The Goonies*, and as good a time as you can ever hope to have in the cinema**

**HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE**
**12A** *Sam Neill, Julian Dennison, Rima Te Wiata*
★★★★★
TRAGEDY COMEDY WOODS

THIS ADORABLE COMEDY is just the sort of directorial triumph that you'd expect to one day send its maker on to huge things. That's already happened for Taika Waititi who, off the strength of his work on vampire mockumentary *What We Do In The Shadows* and this, is currently calling the shots on Marvel's massive *Thor* sequel *Thor: Ragnarok*. He deserves every piece of his success because *Hunt For The Wilderpeople* is about as good a time as you can ever hope to have in the cinema.

When we meet Ricky Baker (Julian Dennison), an overweight, surly foster kid, we're told he's a 'bad egg'. Child services have been keeping close tabs on him due to such unforgiveable atrocities as 'kicking things, throwing things, loitering'. This dangerous criminal nature means nobody wants him, except for Bella (Rima Te Wiata), a woman with a heart that's kind but not so strong. Ricky's happiness is short-lived and a series of unfortunate events put him on the run through the woods with Hec (Sam Neill), Bella's curmudgeonly husband, pursued by child services, the police and an assortment of locals. It's a little bit *Rambo* and a little bit *The Goonies*, but with a low-key, doofus-y charm all of its own.

Waititi has a confident command of his own world. It's full of whimsy but he gives it some bite, largely with a fiercely downbeat Hec.

*Hunt For The Wilderpeople* is a strange film. It doesn't really fit comfortably into any particular genre but straddles fantasy and reality, comedy and tragedy, sense and nonsense. Just do yourself a favour and see it. **Olly Richards**

PHOTOS: LIONSGATE, REX

Valorie Curry as Talia

# The horror

**Every bit as terrifying as the 1999 original. Maybe more so**

## BLAIR WITCH

**15** *James Allen McCune, Valorie Curry*

★★★★☆

HORROR TREMBLES TENSION

WE WERE A SIMPLER PEOPLE when *The Blair Witch Project* came out in 1999. We believed it was *just maybe* possible that this film, purporting to be made up of 'found footage' of young fools who went missing in a spooky forest, could be real. We marvelled at how it was marketed on the internet, which then seemed a world of wonderful possibilities and not the thing that would assuredly destroy us all (if you weren't there, ask your parents). We're more cynical now. A sequel/reboot coming 17 years later can only reasonably expect to meet with an eye-roll and a weary sigh. And maybe you'll manage one, if your eyes aren't otherwise occupied weeping with fear. Because this is every bit as terrifying as the original, if not even more so.

There's already been a *Blair Witch* sequel but this film, like the public did, ignores it. We pick up in the present day with James (James Allen McCune), the brother of Heather, the missing woman from the original, planning to retrace his sister's steps in the hope of learning what happened to her. A friend, Talia (Valorie Curry), is filming him for a college project. Two more friends come along for the trip because you need extra people to potentially die. They're all wired up with tiny cameras, so once more the story is put together from 'found footage'. Yes, it is essentially the same film with whizzier technology. Yet is that such a bad a thing?

What worked with *The Blair Witch Project* wasn't the great story but the way it threw you into the middle of the action, unsure of the sound behind you, dizzy at sharing the same trembling view as the characters. It's been copied countless times since, but many imitators have shown it's not easy. Director Adam Wingard (*The Guest*) has the knack. His script is serviceable and his characters so dumb that any deaths are mostly unmourned, but his scares are first rate; tension is maintained throughout, jumps thrust in just as you're insensible with dread at visual horrors only glanced. He has an instinctive grasp of the rhythms of a horror movie. Which is a long way of saying it's so scary you may want to buy two seats – one to sit on and one behind you to jump into. **Olly Richards**

## FOR FANS OF

WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS

SON OF RAMBOW

Surly foster kid Nicky (Julian Dennison) with Hec

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

**The film was made under the title *The Woods* and only revealed as a *Blair Witch Project* sequel at Comic-Con.**

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# Under the RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

# Tory Lanez

**Toronto's Tory Lanez recently released the album 'I Told You', a sprawling epic combining R&B and hip-hop. Just don't ask him about Drake...**

**Even by the standards of a debut album, there's a great deal of personal narrative in 'I Told You'. Why did you feel it so important to tell that story?**
"It was important because the narrative isn't just a fake story; it's my life on a timeline. A lot of times, people won't be 100 per cent real with their story and I wanted to give people the drawn-out experience of the perseverance and the struggle that it took to get here."

**Is it true that your father was a missionary, a minister, who healed people through the power of God?**
"A missionary preacher, yeah. He travelled all across the world preaching the gospel and healing people. He'd sit there praying in church. The whole church would sit there praying and people would come up and get healed. People would come in wheelchairs and he'd make them walk. It's just the power of God. It wasn't my dad; it's what God had instructed my dad to do."

**You've been feuding with Drake for years...**
"I'd rather not [talk about that]. I'm off that subject. I just wanna make good music."

**Is it true that you were Justin Bieber's hip-hop coach?**
"Nah, I wouldn't say all that. People started saying that at one point, though, because he put out a freestyle where he used eight bars of my song ['Beamer Benz Or Bentley Freestyle'] when he was mad young. But he ended up being a great friend of mine. When I see him, it's like seeing a cousin you don't see all the time. He's a warm-hearted kid; a good kid."

**What's your ambition for this album?**
"This is the best music put out so far in 2016. There's no album in 2016 that's better than my album. When you take the time to dive into it, you understand why. I encourage everyone to go out and get it – not because I'm trying to promote myself, but because you've been starved of great music." **Jordan Bassett**

## DETAILS

**BASED:** Toronto
**SOCIAL:** @torylanez
**BUY:** Debut studio album 'I Told You' is out now
**FACT:** Lanez once offered Drake $10,000 to listen to his music. The 6 God did not respond, though dissed Lanez on 'Summer Sixteen'.

## Best track

**'Loners Blvd'**

A classy, piano-led track in which Lanez admits previous mixtapes failed but vows to forge ahead.

## FOR FANS OF

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# live

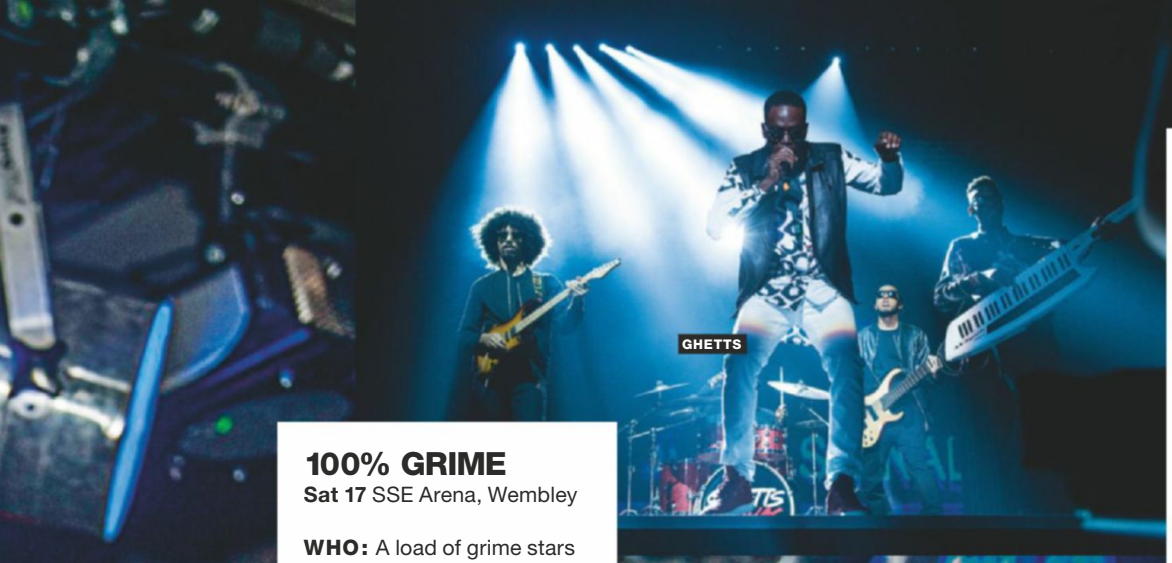
THE MOST IMPORTANT GIGS THIS WEEK

## FAT WHITE FAMILY

**Sat 17** O2 Academy Brixton, London

**WHO:** South London reprobates with a notoriously frenetic live show.
**WHY:** Because this could be founding member Saul Adamczewski's last tour with the band.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** No details yet.
**TICKETS:** £17.60 from ents24.com

**For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com**




## 100% GRIME
**Sat 17** SSE Arena, Wembley

**WHO:** A load of grime stars including, but not limited to, Tinchy Stryder, Ghetts, Scorcher and Paigey Cakey.
**WHY:** It's a huge grime gig in Wembley Arena. It'll be massive.
**WHO'S SUPPORTING:** Here are some more names from the roster – Izzie Gibbs, P Money, Geko, Big Narstie.
**TICKETS:** £20-£46 from axs.com

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**Sat 17** Unit 30, London

## DIIV
**Thu 22** Thekla, Bristol

## DIZZEE RASCAL
**Fri 16** Hastings Pier, Hastings

## GROOVE ARMADA
**Sat 17** The Liquid Room, Edinburgh

## HAPPY MONDAYS
**Sat 17** Hastings Pier, Hastings

## MAVERICK SABRE
**Sat 17** The Underground, Bradford

## NITE JEWEL
**Fri 16** Stereo, Glasgow
**Sat 17** The Jazz Café, London

## NOTHING
**Fri 16** Hoxton Bar & Kitchen, London
**Sat 17** Bleach, Brighton

## PURPLE HEART PARADE
**Sat 17** Soup Kitchen, Manchester

## RACHEL SERMANNI
**Sat 17** Kenilworth Castle, Kenilworth

## SKREAM
**Fri 16** Exeter Phoenix, Exeter

## THE VIEW
**Fri 16** Barrowland, Glasgow

## WILEY
**Fri 16** KOKO, London

READER'S PICK

**LAURA** 25
Warrington
*@modestlaura*

**JAMES**
**Sat 17** Roundhay Park, Leeds

**"They always put on a great show and Tim Booth's dancing gets better every time I see them."**

## CLUB NME
**KING NO-ONE + FACE**
**Fri 16** KOKO, London

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## ON SALE FRIDAY 9AM

# Soundtrack of my life

# Zane Lowe

**Beats 1 head honcho and DJ**

## THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

**TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS**

***Here Comes My Girl***

"The album 'Damn The Torpedoes' was on a lot in our house when it came out in 1979. I just thought Tom Petty looked like the coolest person I'd ever seen in my life. I've never met Tom. The closest I've got is telling Jimmy Iovine, who produced that record and who I work for at Beats and Apple, how seminal that album was for me."

## THE SONG THAT MADE ME WANT TO DJ

**DEFTONES**

***Feiticeira***

"Everything that I've ever done professionally or creatively has stemmed from wanting to be close to music. So I wasn't like, 'I really want to be a radio DJ', I was just like, 'This is cool, I get to talk about music!' I started my first XFM evening show with 'Feiticeira' – I was really nervous, but the one thing I kept going back to to get me excited was that song."

DEFTONES

## THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT

**U2**

***War***

"It was at a record store in Auckland and it was rammed. I remember very clearly being in that store and being overwhelmed by how many people were in front of the counter trying to buy music. I was obsessed with U2 for a long time after that."

## THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

**DEEP PURPLE**

***Smoke On The Water***

"I was with my uncle. I remember hearing that record and becoming totally obsessed with music from then onwards. There wasn't anything that distracted me from music after that. It was a pretty formative moment."

## THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

**REM**

***The One I Love***

"I absolutely am a karaoke fan, but I haven't done it in a very long time. I remember I did it once on a road trip in America and sang 'The One I Love' with a friend of mine. The range is very high on that, it's very hard. When he sings the word 'fire' it's a total struggle. It was a disaster."

**Go to NME.com for more Soundtracks**

## THE ALBUM I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

**RADIOHEAD**

***OK Computer***

"There was a time when I didn't think I'd ever stop listening to 'OK Computer'. But I remember I had to walk away from that album. It took me a few years to go back and listen to it."

UNKNOWN MORTAL ORCHESTRA

## THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE

**UNKNOWN MORTAL ORCHESTRA**

***First World Problem***

"It's a really modern funk record, and it's hard to make funk these days. I love it. Every time I play it on the show there's a lot of movement in the studio from everybody."

## THE FIRST SONG I PLAYED ON BEATS 1

**SPRING KING**

***City***

"It was the night before the first show and I remember saying to my team, 'What if we went with Spring King?' We'd been listening to it a lot and it just felt perfect. I didn't really give a huge amount of thought to the fact they were unsigned – we just loved the song and loved the band."

**Listen to Zane's show weeknights from 5pm on Beats 1 / Apple Music**

## The wisdom of the *NME* archives

**THIS WEEK**

**DAMON ALBARN**

***Blur***

**September 16, 1995**

"I know it's a very flippant thing to say, but if Kurt Cobain had played football he'd probably still be alive today. I know it sounds like the most ridiculous thing, but if you play football you'll know what that means."

INTERVIEW: LEONIE COOPER. PHOTOS: FRANK MADDOCKS

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